

## **Rhema: Searching the Scriptures Movement**

### Foreword

Dear TACMC family,

Welcome to our 4th edition of the RHEMA Scripture Reading Exercise. I am thankful that each year, we have an opportunity to read and reflect on God's word together in the community, and not just any community, but within the TACMC faith community.

Interestingly, we see verses with instructions to EAT God's word in both the Old Testament (Ezekiel 3:1-3) and the New Testament (Revelation 10:8-10). Eating is an apt metaphor for what we must do with God's word. What you eat sustains you. Your body breaks down and assimilates the food you eat to replenish your energy, renew your cells, and build up or maintain your muscles. In this way, we can say that we become what we eat and that what we eat gives us life.

For this round of Rhema, the feast prepared for us is mainly drawn from the letters of John as we move into the fourth and final year of our theme: Pursuing Holiness, Living Out Holy Love.

The letters of John give us a glimpse of struggles within the church. For example, 1 John 2:18-19 suggests that the church experienced a split. It is my hope and prayer that as we eat God's Word together these 40 days, we will be challenged to live out holy love, not just to our external community, but also within our own community. By this, all the world will know that we are disciples of Jesus, if we have love for one another.

Wishing you a blessed time of Rhema.

Blessings,  
Rev Edmund Koh

## **Rhema: Searching the Scriptures Movement**

### Overview of the Johannine Epistles

#### **Introduction to 1 John**

1 John is a brief epistle written by the author to the churches in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). Through this letter, we gain some insight into the state of the Christian church in the late first century AD. The letter is written in a sermon style, containing theological discussions and teachings on spiritual life. The letter places emphasis on the phrase "I write to you" which underscores the importance of the message, and the need for it to be widely disseminated and taught to future generations.

#### **Author**

The author is the Apostle John (also the author of 2 John and 3 John), who in his youth once wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy a Samaritan village that did not welcome Jesus (Luke 9:53-54). In his later years, despite being exiled to the island of Patmos by the Roman emperor, he continued to write letters rebuking the churches for their apathy and pride. Known for his fiery personality and nicknamed "Son of Thunder," John witnessed the foundations of new believers being affected by heretical teachings and false wisdom within the church towards the end of the first century. This prompted him to write this epistle (1 John 2:26).

#### **Audience**

From passages 2:12-14, 3:1, and 5:13, it is clear that John's audience is Christians, particularly those in Ephesus and its surrounding regions, as well as believers threatened by the Gnostic movement. At the time of writing, there was a rise of Gnosticism which was spreading like wildfire, impacting the propagation of true Christian doctrine and the establishment of the church. The false teaching denying that Christ came in the flesh, mentioned in 1 John 4:3 and 2 John 7, refers to this movement.

#### **Summary of Contents**

In the letter, the author vehemently denounces the heretics as "antichrists" (2:18), "liars" (2:22), and "children of the devil" (3:10). He exposes the erroneous teachings of false teachers (2:26) and harshly criticizes their unrighteous behavior (3:8-10). John also uses apostolic and personal experiences to testify that Jesus is Christ, and teaches that the God who created all things is light, love, and eternal life. He presents three main arguments:

1. God is light (1:5) - In Him, there is no darkness. The children of God should walk in the light; those who do not walk in the light do not practice the truth.
2. God is life - Through Jesus Christ, all who repent, confess their sins, and trust in Him can receive eternal life. The Holy Spirit dwells in believers, teaching them the way they should walk and live out the life of Christ (2:24-29).
3. God is love (4:8) - All who believe in God must love one another, for love comes from God. Believers should dwell in love; God's love for us is manifested in Jesus Christ coming into the world. Those who do not believe in God's word has made Him out to be a liar (5:10-11).

## Rhema: Searching the Scriptures Movement

### Overview of the Johannine Epistles

The letter begins with "eternal life" (1:2) and ends with "eternal life" (5:20). The author wants us to understand that with faith, anyone can know God and gain eternal life through trusting in Him.

#### Outline

Introduction (1:1-1:4)

Believers Should Walk in the Light (1:5-2:29)

God is Love (3:1-4:21)

Faith Overcomes the World (5:1-5:12)

Conclusion: Knowing God and Gaining Eternal Life (5:13-5:21)

#### Introduction to 2 John

The Apostle John, writing as an elder, composed this letter. He succinctly conveys the key teachings of 1 John to the recipient, advising them not to welcome travellers who spread false doctrines to avoid partaking in their evil deeds. The recipient is referred to as "the chosen lady and her children," generally believed to be a metaphor for a church in Asia Minor.

#### Outline

Greeting (1-3)

Obeying God's Commandments (4)

Teachings and Warning (5-11)

Final Greetings (12-13)

#### Introduction to 3 John

In this very brief personal letter, John praises the recipient, Gaius, and expresses gratitude towards him. Gaius is a prominent believer in the church who lives in the truth and hospitably receives traveling brothers, earning John's commendation. The letter also mentions another believer, Diotrephes, who maligns others and uses his position as a church leader to forbid believers from welcoming brothers. John advises the recipient not to emulate such evil behaviour. The letter's closing greetings to "the friends" refers to believers in the church, implying that the church has many members. This is a reflection that the church has not been significantly affected by heresy, except for a few like Diotrephes.

#### Outline

Greeting (1-2)

Commendation of Gaius (3-8)

Rebuke of Diotrephes (9-10)

Teaching to Imitate Good (11-12)

Final Greetings (13-15)

## Rhema: Searching the Scriptures Movement

19 August 2024, Sunday - 29 September 2024, Sunday

WEEK/DAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>Week 1</b>	Walk in Light, not in Darkness 1 John 1-10	19 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:1-4	20 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:5
<b>Week 2</b>	Walking in Light by keeping God's Commandment 1 John 2:7-15	26 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:7-8	27 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:9-11
<b>Week 3</b>	Walking in Love by Loving one another 1 John 3:11-24	2 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:4-12	3 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:13-17
<b>Week 4</b>	Holy Living in Eternal Life 1 John 5:1-12	9 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4: 13-21	10 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:1-3
<b>Week 5</b>	Walking in Truth and Love 2 John 1-13	16 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 1-3	17 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 4-6
<b>Week 6</b>	Holy Living through Hospitality 3 John 1-15	23 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 1-4	24 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 5-6
<b>Week 7</b>	Holy Living through Fellowship Hebrews 10:23-25		

**Rhema: Searching the Scriptures Movement**  
 19 August 2024, Sunday - 29 September 2024, Sunday

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:6-7	22 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:8-10	23 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:1-2	24 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:3-6
28 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:12-17	29 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:18-23	30 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:24-29	31 Aug <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:1-3
4 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:18-20	5 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:21-24	6 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:1-6	7 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:7-12
11 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:4-5	12 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:6-13	13 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:14-17	14 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:18-21
18 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 7-9	19 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 10-11	20 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 12-13	21 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 1:9-11
25 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 7-10	26 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 11-15	27 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 13:1-2	28 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 13:3

## Walk in Light, not in Darkness!

Day 1: 18 August, Sunday

### 1 John 1:1-10

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

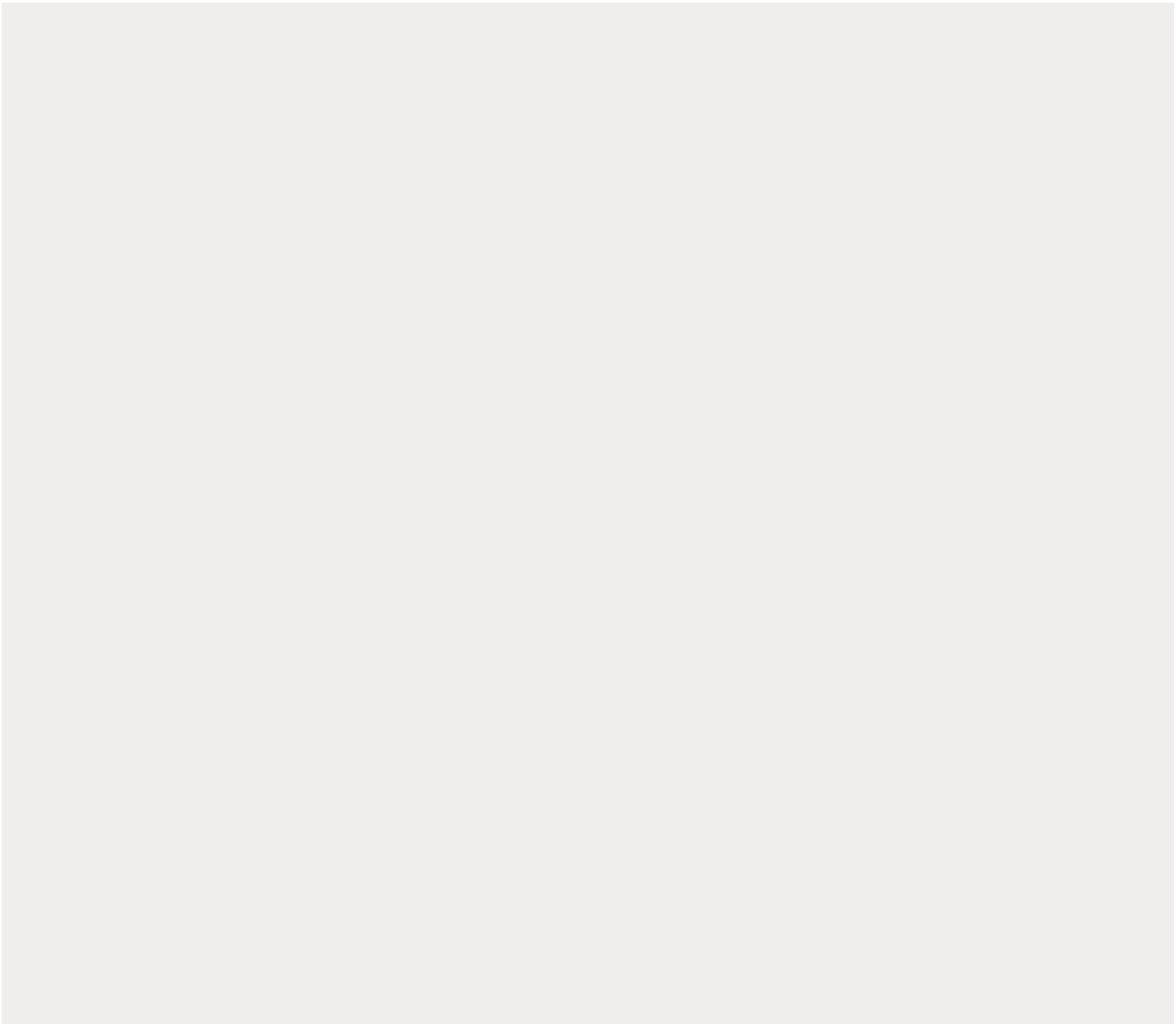
5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

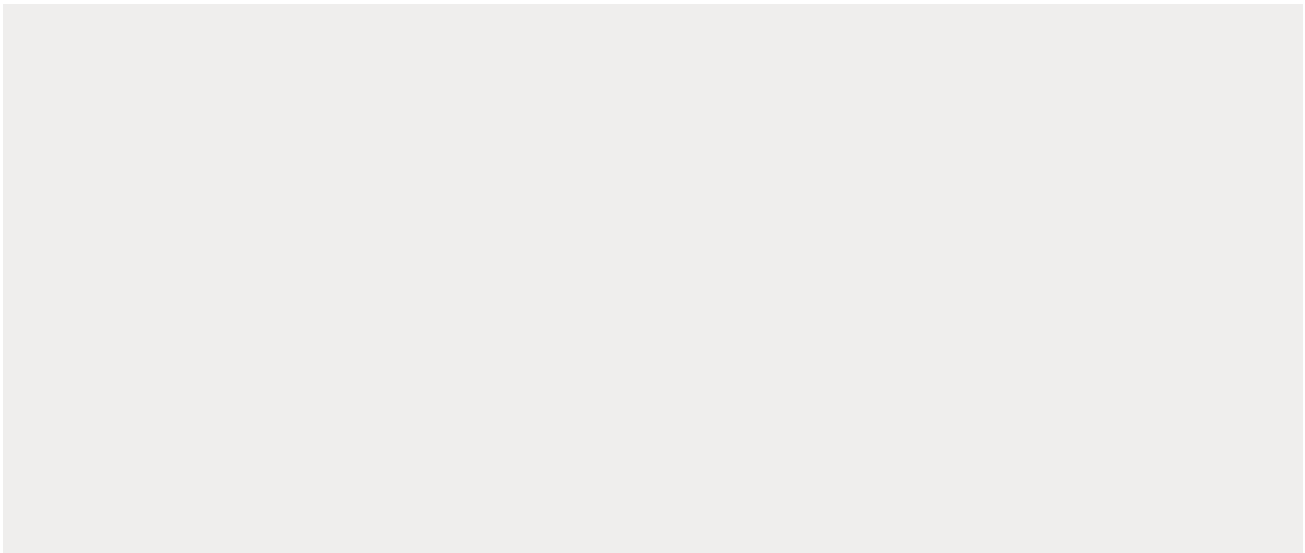
### Sermon Notes

**Walk in Light, not in Darkness!**

Day 1: 18 August, Sunday



**My Prayer**



## Walk in Light, not in Darkness!

Day 2: 19 August, Monday

### 1 John 1:1-4

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

#### Read

Read the passage slowly. Let the Word of God minister to you.

#### Hear

As you read, which words or phrases stand out to you? Write down the words or phrases and meditate on it.

#### Meditate

Who is John referring to as the “Word of Life”?

Have I witnessed, experienced, and heard about the “Word of Life”? Reflect upon your very own first encounter with Christ.

Am I willing to testify and proclaim the “Word of Life” to others?

#### Act

As the Lord leads, pray that he will grant you the boldness and inspiration to proclaim Christ and share the good news of his salvation with your neighbours, friends, or relatives, either through a text, lending a listening ear, or performing an act of kindness.

#### Pray

Father God, I thank you for sending Jesus as the “Word of life”. I thank you that I have fellowship with the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I pray that I will continue to experience your merciful love and loving kindness in my life. I pray that I will proclaim your love to all, so that they too might have the abundant life you promised. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.



**1 John 1:5**

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**Read**

Read the passage aloud. Memorize it if you can.

**Hear**

How is God speaking to you through the passage? Let the Word of God shine through the dark crevices of your heart.

**Meditate**

Is Christ the light of my life?

Is there any darkness in my life? Come to the Lord in honesty and repentance.

Light and darkness cannot co-exist. Am I of Christ or am I of the world?

**Act**

Turn back and repent of any sin that is hindering you from coming to Christ. Ask the Lord for a repentant heart if you are half-hearted in making God the Lord of your life. God is either the Lord of all or he is not Lord at all in your life. Re-dedicate your life fully to God and serve Him faithfully and wholeheartedly.

**Pray**

Jesus, I thank you that you are the light of my life. I ask for forgiveness for the sins in my life and darkness that is in my heart. Forgive me also Lord, for the time when I serve you half-heartedly, thinking that light and darkness can co-exist within my heart. I want to proclaim your Lordship over all that I am and all that I have. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## Walk in Light, not in Darkness!

Day 4: 21 August, Wednesday

### 1 John 1:6-7

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

#### Read

Read the verses above slowly. Repeat a few times. Let the Word of God illuminate your heart, mind, and soul.

#### Hear

Is there a word, a phrase, or a verse that speaks to you or inspires you personally? What is God trying to say to you? Let the Holy Spirit shine his light upon the condition of your heart.

#### Meditate

Am I walking in the Light?

- a. Do I have close fellowship with Christ? How much time do I spend on reading his word and praying? How often do I put him first above all else?
- b. Do I have fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters? Do I treasure the unity of the body of Christ in the church? Do I put the need of others above my own interests?

#### Act

Have a close fellowship with Christ daily through praying and meditating upon His Word. Start to embark and persist on a daily Bible reading schedule, or use Bible apps such as Lectio 365, Pray as you Go, or Today in the Word.

Consider how you can have fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters daily. Join a cell group, pray together, and serve together as one body in Christ.

#### Pray

Father God, teach me to walk in the light daily. I thank you that through the blood of Jesus, you have made my fellowship with you and with fellow brothers and sisters possible. May I continue to grow in the knowledge of who you are, and may I continue to love my neighbours as myself. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**1 John 1:8-10**

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**Read**

Coming in between 2 similar verses, what do you think verse 9 is telling us?

**Hear**

What is God telling you through today's passage?

**Meditate**

Take some time to reflect upon sins in your words, emotions, thoughts, and actions. For example: idolatry, adultery, lying, greed, jealousy, complaining, gossiping, unforgiveness, etc.

**Act**

Come before the holy presence of God, confess your sin, earnestly seek his forgiveness, and walk in his light.

**Pray**

Holy Lord, the more I know you, the more I see the depth of my sin. I confess to you the true state of my heart. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for my calloused heart grieves beneath the righteous and loving cross. Thank you for making Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that in him we might become your righteousness (2 Cor 5:21). May your truth and word abide in my heart continually, aiding in the genuine transformation of my life. In the name of Christ, Amen.

## Walk in Light, not in Darkness!

Day 6: 23 August, Friday

### 1 John 2:1-2

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

#### Read

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin."

When John Wesley left home, his mother wrote on the blank pages of the Bible she gave him: "Sin will keep you from this Book, but this Book will keep you from sin."

#### Hear

What does it mean that Jesus Christ is our advocate? Listen to what he wants to tell you.

#### Meditate

Jesus not only serves as an atoning sacrifice for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world. What does this signify?

#### Act

Do not sin anymore.

You are to go and proclaim the salvation of God among all nations, making disciples of all nations. Do you have such an opportunity today?

#### Pray

Gracious Heavenly Father, may I hide your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you (Ps 119:11). Open my eyes to know Jesus more— the righteous Messiah, the perfect man who fulfilled the law and completed the covenant. Thank you for providing Jesus— the perfect Advocate for sinners, who gives me the chance to rise each time I fall. Thank you for his perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice on the cross, offered for the sins of the whole world. In the name of Christ, Amen.

**1 John 2:3-6**

3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.  
4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:  
6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

**Read**

What is this passage talking about?

**Hear**

What is God saying to you through this passage?

**Meditate**

Do you truly know the Lord? Is it just paying lip service without obedience to his commandments?

**Act**

What methods and steps can you take to abide in the Lord and walk in the way he walked?

**Pray**

Gracious Heavenly Father, help me to be united with Christ, to emulate his perfect love and obedience to your will. Help me to love you with all my heart and to love others with the love of Christ. In the name of Christ, Amen.

## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 8: 25 August, Sunday

### 1 John 2:7-15

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

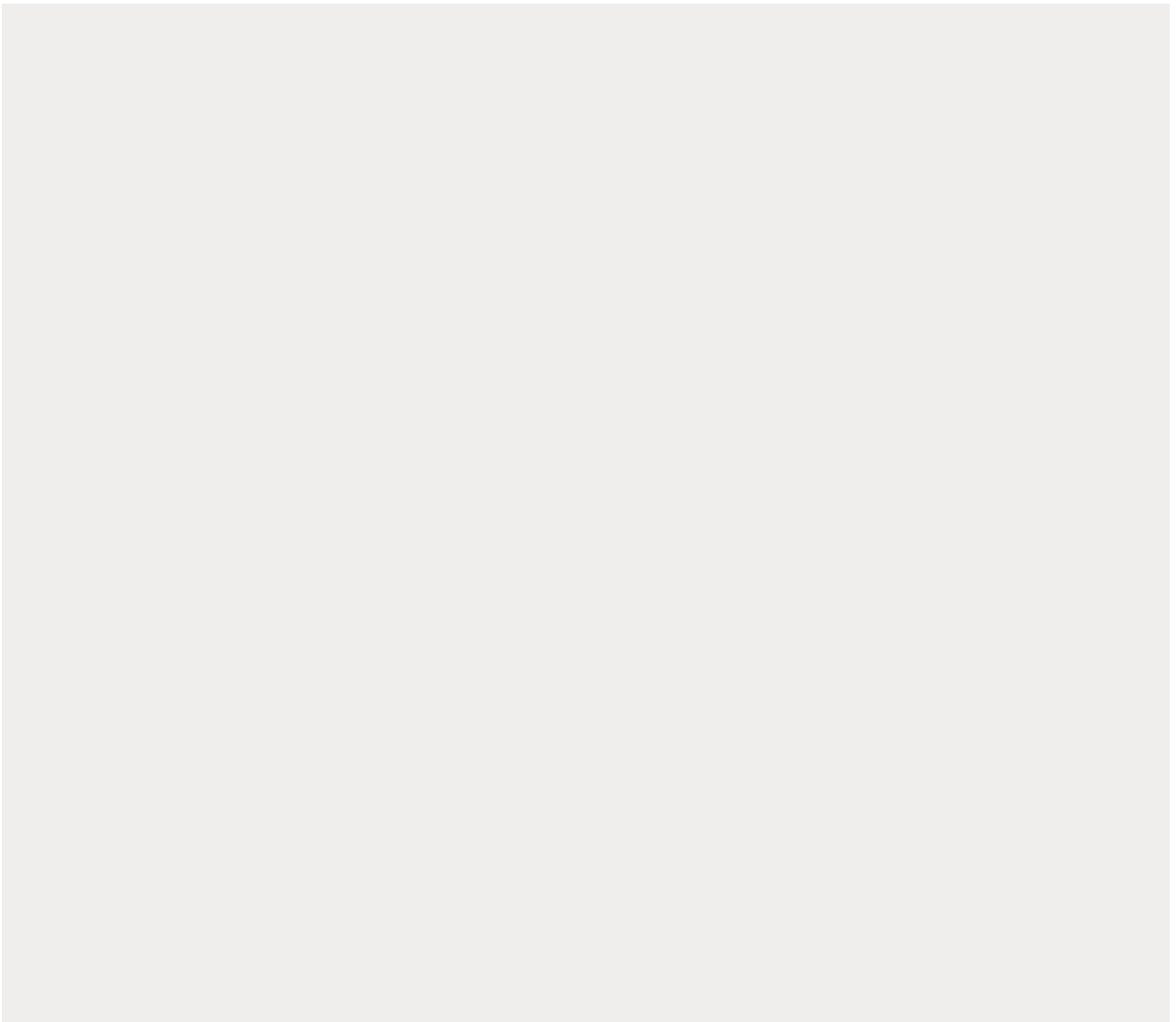
9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. 12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. 14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.

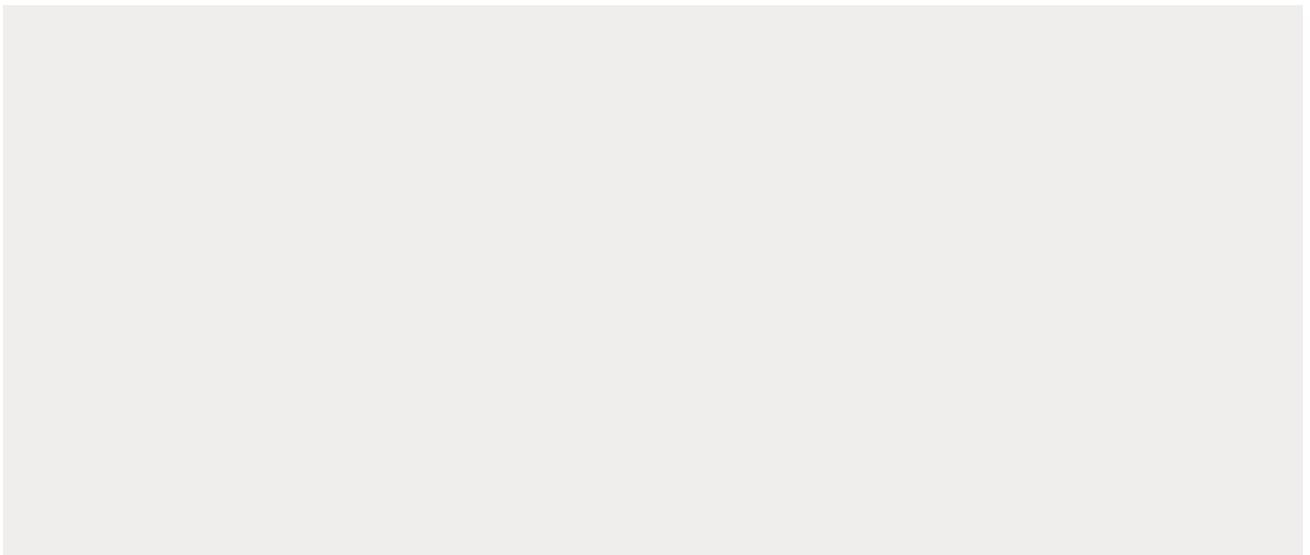
### Sermon Notes

## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 8: 25 August, Sunday



### My Prayer



## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 9: 26 August, Monday

### 1 John 2:7-8

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

#### Read

What do you observe from the passage? Are there any repeated words or phrases?

#### Hear

What is God telling you about the commandments of the Lord through this passage?

#### Meditate

Reflect on an era when true light shines. What does it look like?

#### Act

How will you respond to God's word in your life? How will you apply and live out God's words in your life?

### Pray

Merciful Heavenly Father, I thank you for you love me so much. You actively reveal your truth to me, teaching me to obey your commandments, which is to love you and love others as myself with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind, so that I may walk in the true light. Please help me, Lord, grant me strength to obey your word and keep your commandments. Amen.



## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 10: 27 August, Tuesday

### 1 John 2:9-11

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

#### Read

Read the passage aloud twice, then read it silently once. As you do so, pay attention to the contrasts between light and darkness.

#### Hear

What is God telling you through this passage?

#### Meditate

Reflect on how loving and hating our brothers and sisters can lead to different life situations.

#### Act

Pray and show love to your brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily life.

### Pray

Our compassionate Father in heaven, thank you for revealing this truth to me, that those who hate their brothers and sisters still walk in darkness. I still need your true light to shine in my life, to help me choose to forgive those who offend or transgressed against me, to walk an extra mile, to learn to forgive and love them, just as how you, our merciful Father, do unto us. Amen.

## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 11: 28 August, Wednesday

### 1 John 2:12-17

12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

#### Read

Read this passage silently once, then read it aloud twice. As you read, pay attention to what is said about the world.

#### Hear

From this passage, can you discern the author's purpose and encouragement in writing?

#### Meditate

Reflect on the things, thoughts, and aspects of your life that exhibit love for the world and love of the things in this world.

#### Act

Write down the aspects of your life that currently reflect love for the world. Pray and adjust the focus of your life accordingly, starting anew.

#### Pray

Our compassionate Father in heaven, thank You for reminding me to guard my heart above all else, for from it flows the springs of life. If I love the world, the love of you is not in me. May the Holy Spirit help me not to fall into the temptation of lust and pride, but rather grant me strength to focus on obeying the Lord's commandments, so that I may walk in the truth of the Lord continually. Amen.

**1 John 2:18-23**

18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

**Read**

Read this passage aloud twice. As you read, imagine yourself as "Children" and pay close attention to these words.

**Hear**

Do you hear any teachings about the end times that God is reminding you of through this passage?

**Meditate**

Reflect on God's view of those who lie. Do you sense God's heart in this?

**Act**

Be determined to live in the truth, rejecting falsehood, and acknowledging the Lord in all things, trusting and obeying him.

**Pray**

Compassionate Heavenly Father, I pray for your mercy. Forgive me for all my unrighteousness, whether intentional or unintentional, for the lies I have spoken, for believing teachings that contradict the truth, and for straying from your word. Lord, forgive me. Help me to resolve to live out your teachings in my life, acknowledging you as my Lord in all things, and trusting in and obeying you in the face of each day's challenges. Amen.

## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 13: 30 August, Friday

### 1 John 2:24-29

24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

#### Read

Read this passage aloud twice, then read it silently once. While reading silently, circle any words or phrases that stand out to you.

#### Hear

What is God telling you through this passage?

#### Meditate

Ponder upon the anointing we have received and how it enables us to come confidently before the Lord.

#### Act

Memorize this passage or read it aloud several times as encouragement in your daily life.

#### Pray

Compassionate Heavenly Father, I thank you for anointing my life, enabling me to receive the redeeming grace accomplished by our Lord Jesus, to come before you and be called your children. May the Holy Spirit enlighten my heart, enabling me to resist the deception of falsehood, to know the truth, to hold fast to the true doctrine, and to obey the words of the Lord every day. Amen.

## Walking in Light by Keeping God's Commandment

Day 14: 31 August, Saturday

### 1 John 3:1-3

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

#### Read

What is the promise of the Father's love mentioned in this passage?

#### Hear

What is God telling you through this passage?

#### Meditate

Ponder on the privilege of being called children of God, the benefits of this identity, and the requirements the Lord has for us.

#### Act

Resolve to live out the testimony of your life as a child of God. List one characteristic of being a child of God, such as honesty or kindness, and intentionally live out that characteristic in the coming week.

#### Pray

Compassionate Heavenly Father, I thank you. While I was still a sinner, you purposed to redeem me through the Lord Jesus. Thank you for your great love and grace, which enable me to come confidently before you as your child. Lord, help me to rely on your great love, to continue to live out the identity of being your child in my daily life, loving you and loving others, just as the Lord Jesus demonstrated during his earthly life. Amen.

## Walking in Love by Loving one another!

Day 15, 1 September, Sunday

### 1 John 3:11-24

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

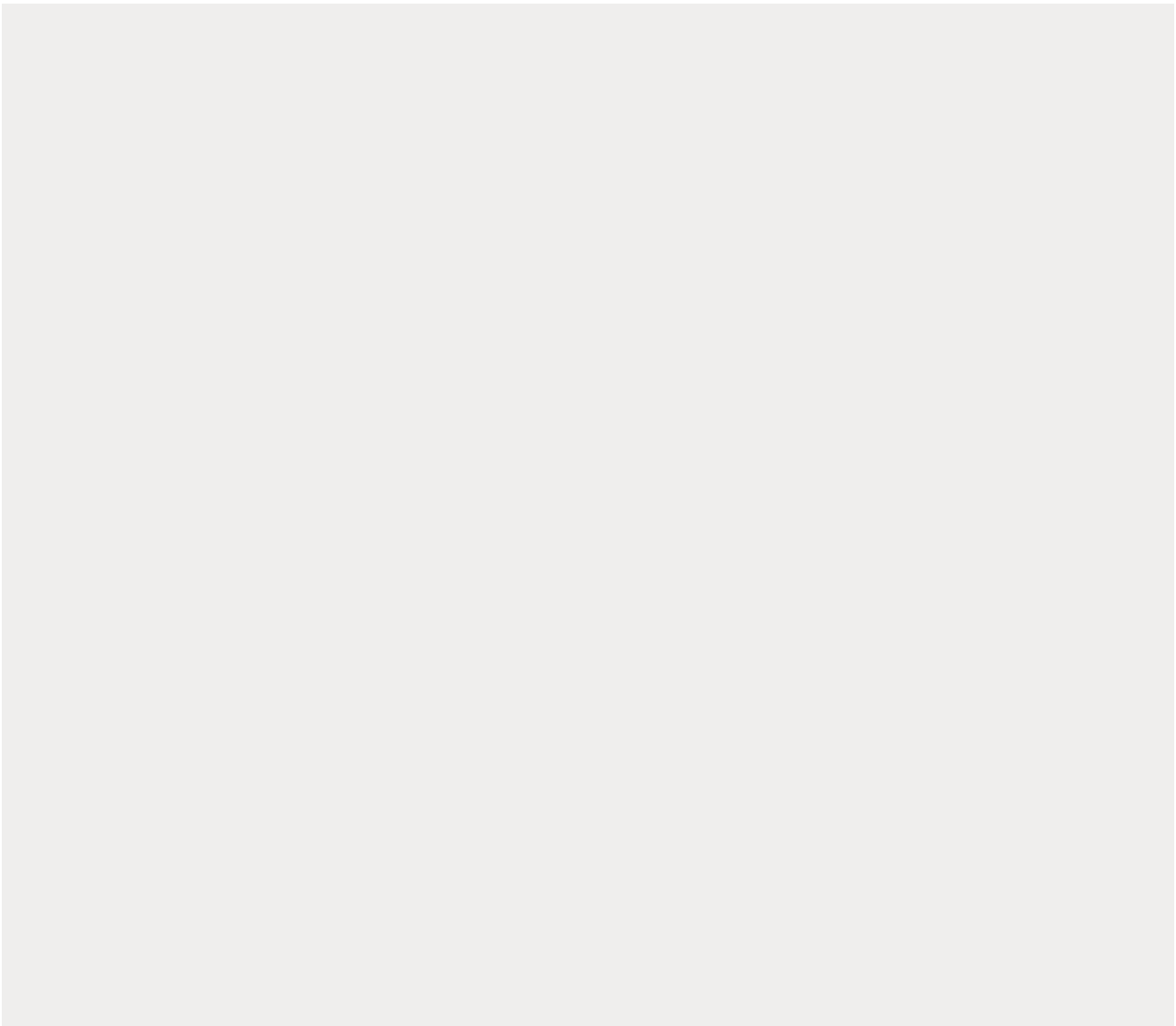
16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

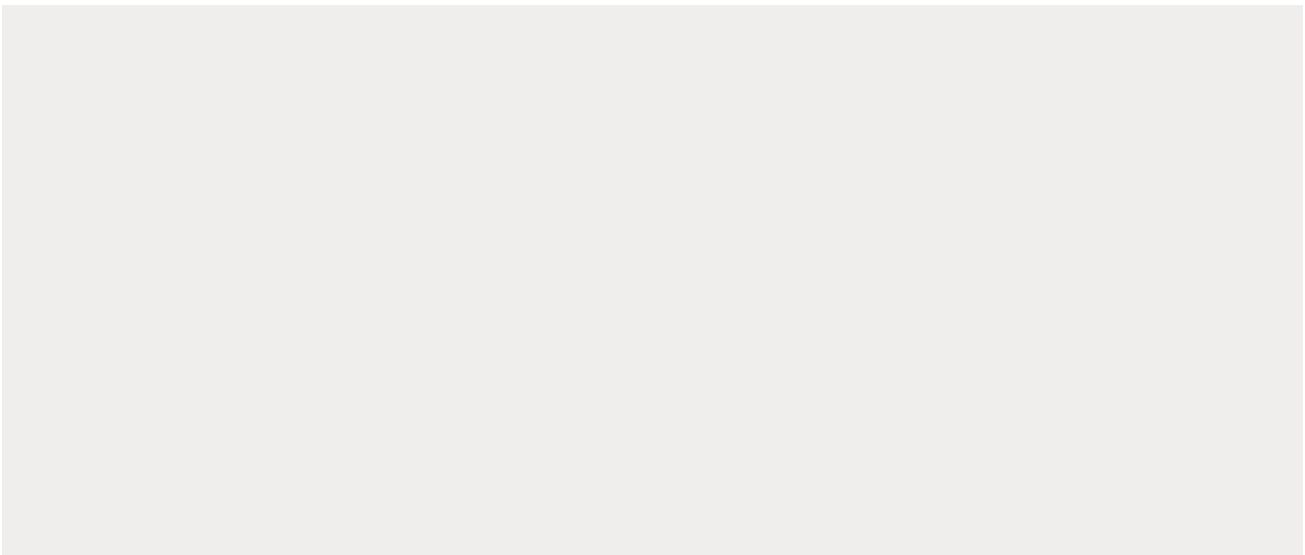
### Sermon Notes

**Walking in Love by Loving one another!**

Day 15, 1 September, Sunday



**My Prayer**



## Walking in Love by Loving one another!

Day 16, 2 September, Monday

### 1 John 3:4-12

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

#### Read

Read the passage slowly three times.

#### Hear

Listen carefully to the passage you've read. What words, phrases, or messages resonate with you? What images come to mind?

#### Meditate

Have my recent thoughts and actions been influenced by sin? If so, what kind of sin? How are my relationships with my brothers and sisters? Are they peaceful? Do they reflect love and acceptance?

#### Act

Strive to avoid any situations that may tempt you to sin, focusing on God and strengthening your relationship with him. Additionally, love one another, encourage each other, live out God's love together, and strive to follow his will.

#### Pray

Dear Lord, thank you for saving us, for allowing us to abide in you and breaking free from the bondage of sin, enabling us to live righteously. May we humbly and reverently focus on you, seeking your help to love one another and live out holy love together. Amen.



## Walking in Love by Loving one another!

Day 17, 3 September, Tuesday

### 1 John 3:13-17

13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

#### Read

Read the passage carefully twice. Underline the sentences that mention love.

#### Hear

Slowly read the passage aloud and listen carefully. What is God saying to you through this passage?

#### Meditate

What is love? How does a lack of love lead to spiritual death, and how can I cultivate love?

#### Act

Actively care for the needs of others in daily life, be willing to consider others, and express genuine love.

#### Pray

Lord, thank you for sacrificing yourself for us, so that we may have your eternal love in our lives. Help me to love my brothers and sisters and have compassion for those in need. Amen.

## Walking in Love by Loving one another!

Day 18, 4 September, Wednesday

### 1 John 3:18-20

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

#### Read

Read the passage silently twice to grasp the key points.

#### Hera

Read the passage slowly and attentively. What is God saying to you through this passage?

#### Meditate

Are my words and actions sincere and able to clearly demonstrate that I truly love others?

#### Act

Express love to others and to God through sincere words and actions.

### Pray

Omniscient and loving God, we thank you for your love and grace, enabling us to practice holy love and to know that we belong to the truth. When we feel guilty and self-condemning, remind us that your love and your affirmation of us surpass our hearts, so that we may find peace and comfort in your love. Amen.

**1 John 3:21-24**

21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**Read**

Read the passage silently twice, underline all the verbs. How many times do "keep" and "abide" appear? Then, read it aloud.

**Hear**

What is God saying to you through this passage? What inspirations did you receive?

**Meditate**

Those who keep God's commandments abide in him, and he in them. This relationship of abiding in God's Spirit is intimate and profound. The Holy Spirit living within us is leading us, allowing us to have close fellowship with the Lord and manifesting his glory. How can we maintain this relationship of abiding in God? Is it through continuous prayer life, perseverance in spiritual growth or what other ways?

**Act**

Engage in daily Bible reading and prayer, allowing God's word to guide your daily life and seeking to experience God's presence.

**Pray**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace that enables us to obey your commandments and love one another, abiding in you and you in us. Father, help us to embrace the shaping and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to commune intimately with you, and to manifest your love and glory. Amen.

## Walking in Love by Loving one another!

Day 20, 6 September, Friday

### 1 John 4:1-6

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

#### Read

What do you observe from the passage?

#### Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

#### Meditate

God wants us to be cautious about what we believe. He urges us to know the truth and avoid being misled. Are we aware of the things that are influencing us spiritually? Reflect on whether the things in your life draw you closer to God or lead you away from him.

#### Act

Take time today to evaluate the messages that you encounter in your daily life, whether from the media, friends, or even your own thoughts. Are they in line with God's truth? Take steps to align your beliefs and actions with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

#### Pray

Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom and discernment to recognize the truth in a world filled with falsehoods. Help us not to be deceived by the spirits of the world but to stand firm in your word. May our faith serve as a beacon of light in a world filled with darkness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Walking in Love by Loving one another!

Day 21, 7 September, Saturday

### 1 John 4:7-12

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

#### Read

What do you observe from the passage? How does John describe God's love?

#### Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

#### Meditate

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7). Are we actively seeking ways to demonstrate God's love to those around us? Consider how you can tangibly express God's love to those in your life, to both believers and non-believers.

#### Act

Gather with a small group or your community to purposefully engage in acts of love, whether through kind words, selfless actions, or simply being present for someone in need. Additionally, consider volunteering together or organizing a community event aimed at fostering love and unity among neighbors and friends.

#### Pray

Gracious God, thank you for the overwhelming love you have poured out upon us. Help us to be a vessel of your love, extending grace and compassion to those around us. May our actions reflect your love and draw others closer to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Holy Living in Eternal Life

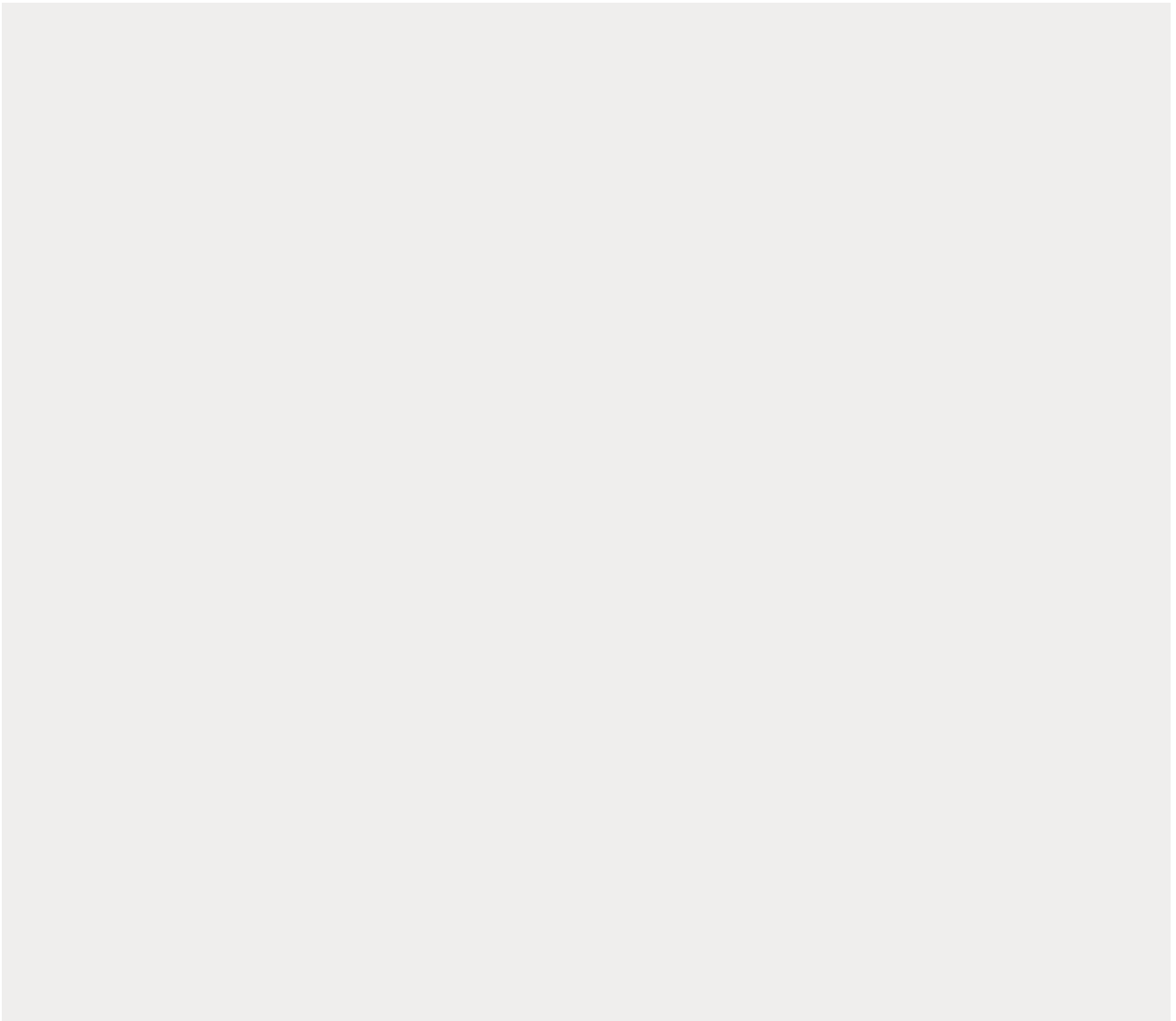
Day 22: 8 September, Sunday

### 1 John 5:1-12

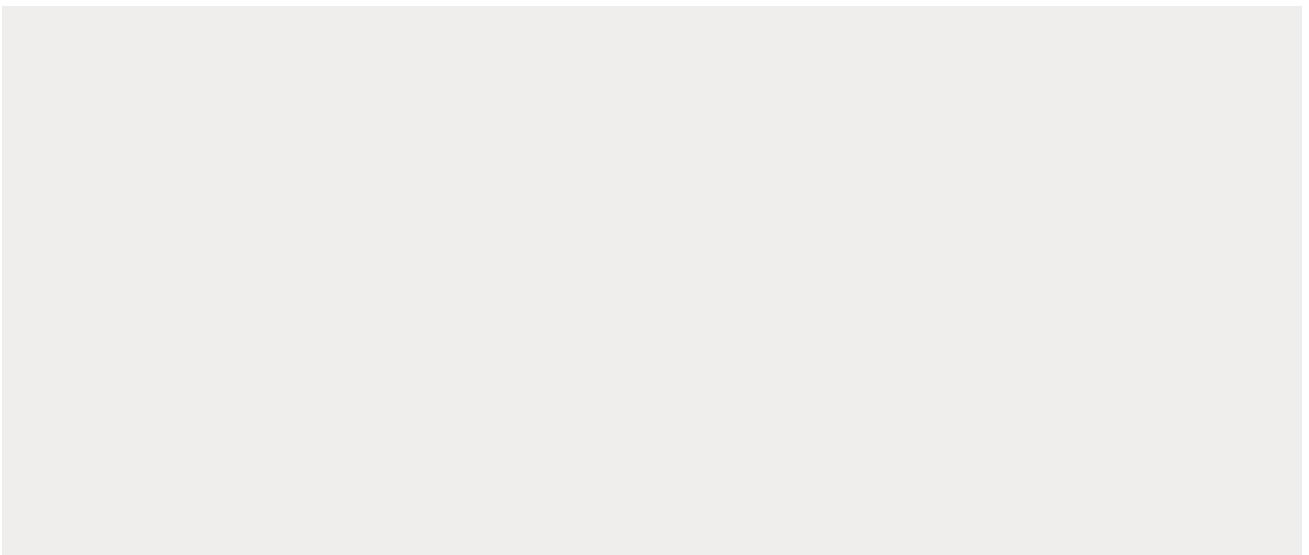
1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

### Sermon Notes



**My Prayer**



## Holy Living in Eternal Life

Day 23: 9 September, Monday

### 1 John 4:13-21

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

#### Read

Count how many times John uses the word “love” or its derivatives in these verses and circle them.

#### Hear

As you read the passage again, have a conversation with God. What does this tell you about love and the life of a follower of Christ?

#### Meditate

“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar” (1 John 4:20). Reflect upon your own life. To what extent is your life defined by love? Are there people in your life whom you find difficult to love?

#### Act

The passage for today draws an important link between loving God and loving others. Write down the names of people whom God’s Spirit is moving you to love this week. Next to each name, write practical ways in which you will show love to these people.

#### Pray

Loving God, thank you for lavishing your love upon me even when I was far from you and undeserving of you. Thank you for your reminder that loving you means loving others. May the Holy Spirit illuminate my life so that I can practically love those who are difficult to love. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.



**1 John 5:1-3**

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome

**Read**

As you read the passage, note the progression and relationship between believing, born of God, loving God, loving others, and obeying God's commands.

**Hear**

Read today's passage again and contemplate on God's living word.

**Meditate**

How does our faith and new identity lead to our love for God and obedience to his commands? "And his commands are not burdensome..." Are we obedient to God's commands especially the more burdensome ones, as for example those commands that call us to love others?

**Act**

Go through the list of names that God is calling you to be intentional in loving. Which of these persons do you find 'burdensome' to love? Pray for each one of them by name, asking God to help you to show genuine love to them.

**Pray**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for first loving me. Thank you that because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, I have experienced your love and is born of God. I confess that my love is imperfect, and sometimes I find that loving <name> is burdensome. By your Spirit, help me to see <name> as you see him/her, and fill my heart with your divine love so that it overflows into practical actions to reach him/her. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## Holy Living in Eternal Life

Day 25: 11 September, Wednesday

### 1 John 5:4-5

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

#### Read

As you read today's passage, focus on the word "overcome."

#### Hear

Pray for the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and be sensitive to his prompting as you read the passage out loud twice more.

#### Meditate

John notes that only people with a certain identity can overcome the world. What does "overcome the world" mean? Ask God in prayer - "to what extent have I overcome the world in my life?", and "in which areas do I need God's help in order to live a victorious, born-again lives, instead of conforming to the world?"

#### Act

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, once said, "There is no holiness but social holiness." He meant we simply won't grow as individuals if we aren't growing together within communities where there is mutual accountability. Share with a close Christian friend or a family member an area of your life that you hope to overcome.

#### Pray

Merciful God, as your Spirit illumines my soul, I realize that there are areas of my life that I am still struggling with. Lord, bring into my life someone that I can be accountable to, so that by your redeeming grace and open sharing, I might live a victorious and holy life that glorifies you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**1 John 5:6-13**

6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**Read**

Count how many times John uses the word “testimony” or “testify” in these verses and circle them.

**Hear**

Read aloud 1 John 5:11-13. What is God trying to tell you through the verse “you may know that you have eternal life”?

**Meditate**

God’s promise in these verses is that God gives eternal life, Jesus makes this gift possible, and our belief (faith) allows us to receive it. John emphasizes in verse 13 that we can be assured that we have eternal life. What does it mean to have assurance of eternal life? How does having eternal life affect your life now?

**Act**

Divide a piece of paper into three parts. In the first third, write a short paragraph describing what your life was like before you personally received Christ as Lord. In the second third, write a short paragraph on how your life has changed after you received Christ. In the final third, write a short paragraph on how God is using you to make a difference in His kingdom.

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the assurance that by our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, we are granted eternal life. Lord, help us to hold fast to this truth especially in times of doubt and uncertainty. Strengthen our faith that we may walk confidently in the knowledge of your love and testify to others the eternal life you have given to us. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

## Holy Living in Eternal Life

Day 27: 13 September, Friday

### 1 John 5:14-17

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

#### Read

Begin by reading the passage aloud twice. On the third reading, identify and circle the words that carry significance to you.

#### Hear

What is God trying to remind you about prayer?

#### Meditate

Verse 15 tells us, “if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” This tells us about the importance of aligning our prayers with God’s will. When our will is aligned with God’s, we can have the confidence as we approach Him in prayer. Reflect on your recent prayers. Have they been focused on your desires or on seeking God's will in your life?

#### Act

Spend 10 minutes in prayer seeking God’s will in this season of your life. As you pray today, adopt a posture of obedience by simply telling God, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” Remain silent and be attentive to how God is speaking. After the 10 minutes, make notes of words, phrases or images that God has revealed to you.

#### Pray

Gracious God, thank you for the reminder for me to align my will to yours in prayer. Help me to draw near to you in expectancy, to dwell on your will instead of my own, and to discern your voice from the voice of the world. Teach me to trust in your perfect plan for my life and the lives of those around us. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen!

**1 John 5:18-21**

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.  
21 Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

**Read**

Read slowly and let the passage speak to you on your identity in Christ.

**Hear**

Read the passage again. Listen to what the Holy Spirit is impressing upon your heart.

**Meditate**

Verse 21 is a reminder to Christians, “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.” Idolatry is the worship of anything other than the true God. As such, idols can take various forms such as material possessions, personal achievements, or even relationships. Reflect on areas in your life where you may have unintentionally placed greater importance (idolized) on the things of the world.

**Act**

Begin each day this week by singing the hymn “Turn your eyes.” In the week, share with your cell group an area of life that you are still struggling to surrender to God.

**Pray**

Loving God, I confess that at times I have been enticed by the allure of idols—things that compete for my devotion and my affection towards you. Forgive me for the times when I have put my trust in the things of the world instead of you. Grant me the wisdom and strength to put you first above all else. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

## Walking in Truth and Love

Day 29: 15 September, Sunday

### 2 John 1-13

1 The elder,

To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth— 2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. 5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.

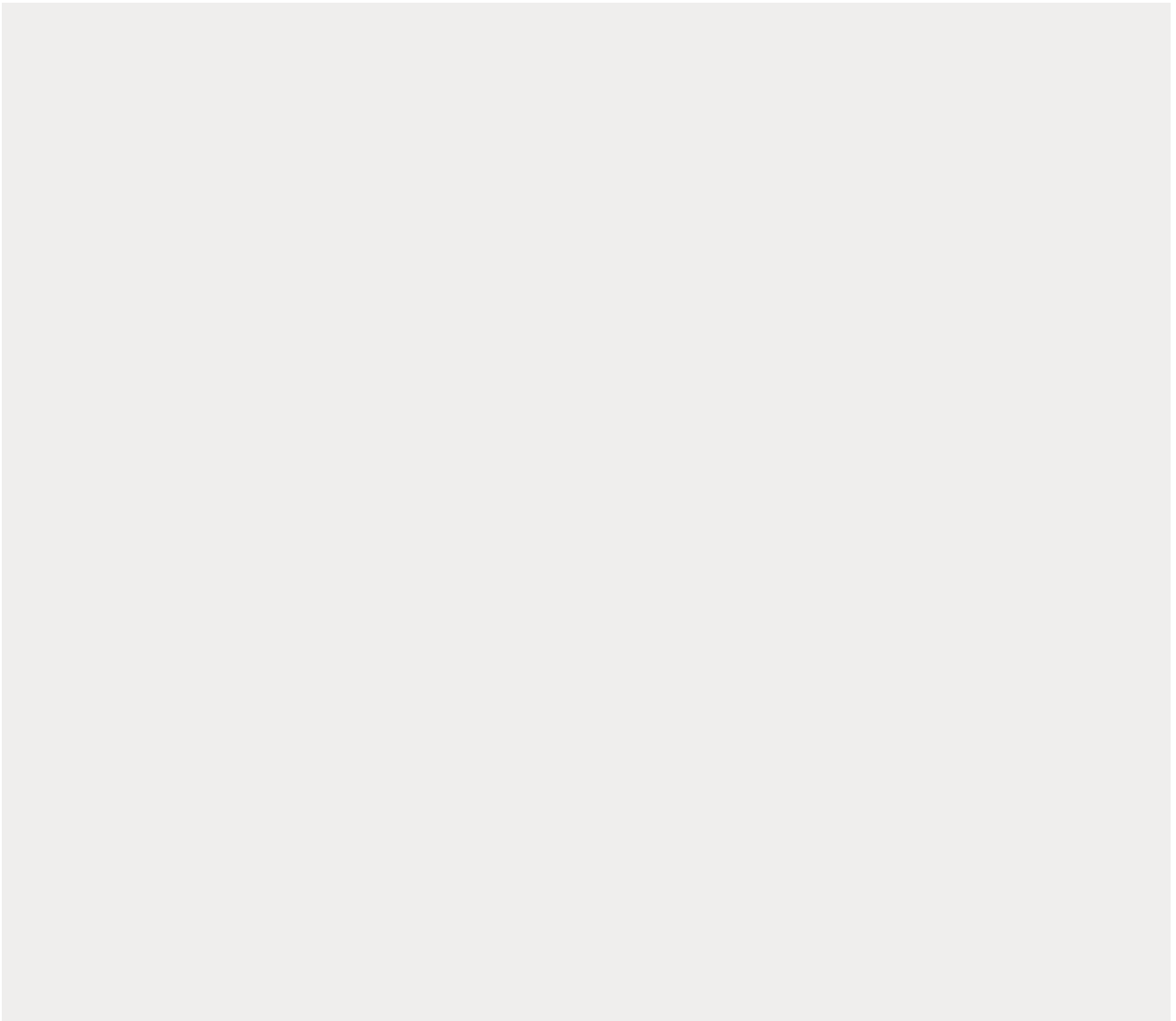
As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. 11 Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

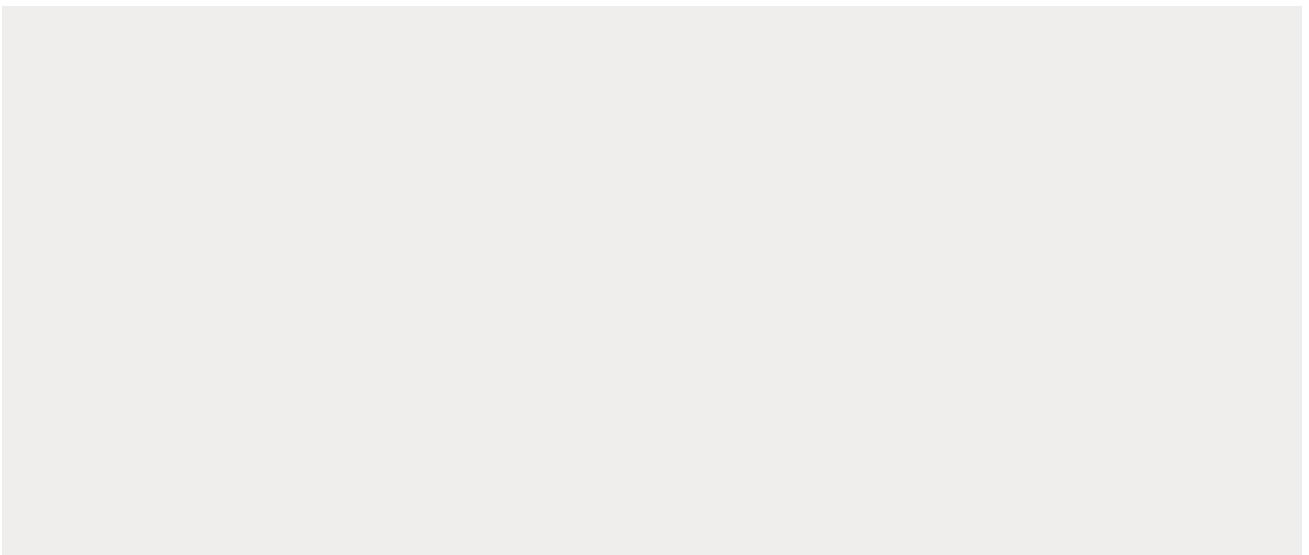
12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13 The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

### Sermon Notes



**My Prayer**



## Walking in Truth and Love

Day 30: 16 September, Monday

### 2 John 1-3

1 The elder to the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth, 2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:  
3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

#### Read

Which word is repeated multiple times in these three verses? Count how many times it appears.

#### Hear

Do you hear the sincerity of Elder John's love in this passage? What do you hear God saying to you?

#### Meditate

Do you often greet others? How does the greeting of a Christian differ from that of a non-Christian?

#### Act

Today, try sending, on the phone or through WhatsApp, a greeting to a few friends or relatives you haven't contacted in a while. Pray for and bless those who are weak in body, mind, or spirit.

#### Pray

Gracious and truthful Lord, help us to love one another in the Lord and to be united in the truth. May your truth take root among us, becoming the foundation of our lives, the guide of our thoughts, and the standard of our actions. May grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, be with us in truth and love. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.



**2 John 4-6**

4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. 5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

**Read**

Which word is repeated multiple times in these three verses? Count how many times it appears.

**Hear**

Listen closely to what God is commanding you to do. Which comes first, walking in the truth or loving one another?

**Meditate**

Reflect on the Great Commandment. How does it correspond with walking in the truth and loving one another? Are you willing to live according to God's command?

**Act**

There are many ways to express our love, such as eliminating prejudice and discrimination, accepting others, listening, helping, giving, serving, and comforting those who are heartbroken. Choose one act of love today and put it into practice based on what touches your heart.

**Pray**

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving me and giving yourself for me. I want to love you with your everlasting love, to walk in your truth, and with a humble and obedient heart, live out love, share love, and be a witness of your sacrificial love. May all glory and praise be to you. In Jesus Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

## Walking in Truth and Love

Day 32: 18 September, Wednesday

### 2 John 7-9

7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

#### Read

Carefully read the verses three times and circle the words "deceiver" and "antichrist."

#### Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage? What situations do I need to be cautious about?

#### Meditate

A full reward is quite enticing! What does it refer to exactly? How can I obtain this full reward?

#### Act

Starting today, learn more about the heresies that have appeared in the history of Christianity. Pray for the Lord to guard you against false teachings.

### Pray

Incarnate Lord, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through you. I ask for the Holy Spirit's help to guard my heart and mind against the deceivers of this world. May I always look to Jesus on the cross and willingly bear my cross to follow you. In Christ's holy name, I pray. Amen.

**2 John 10-11**

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. 11 Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

**Read**

What do you observe from this passage? What kind of “dangerous individuals” is the passage warning us about?

**Hear**

Read the passage aloud three times and listen to what God is saying to you.

**Meditate**

Hospitality towards preachers is an act of love, but only if the preacher teaches the truth. Otherwise, do not welcome them or greet them. Do you agree with this command? What does it remind you of?

**Act**

Memorize the Apostles' Creed and use the apostles' experience to discern false teachings or heresies (such as Jehovah's Witnesses).

**Pray**

Holy Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for giving us the Apostles' Creed as the foundation and guide of our faith. Protect our hearts from associating with those who have strayed from the truth so that we do not partake in their evil deeds. Lead us to know the truth and follow it faithfully, standing firm in our faith without being swayed by worldly temptations, always looking to Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

## Walking in Truth and Love

Day 34: 20 September, Friday

### 2 John 12-13

12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13 The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

#### Read

Which keywords or phrases in this passage caught your attention?

#### Hear

What is God saying to you through this passage?

#### Meditate

Can written words fully replace in-person meetings? Can online worship fully replace in-person worship? After the pandemic, have all the church's members returned to in-person worship?

#### Act

Arrange to meet a friend you haven't seen in a while for coffee or a meal and use God's truth to strengthen their faith. Alternatively, call someone whose faith is weak or who has not yet come to believe in Christ and invite them to church to worship God.

#### Pray

Dear Lord, you are the living and true God. May the Holy Spirit guide us to encounter you, so that we may know you more deeply, worship you more devoutly, and follow you more closely. Lord, please keep us in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, not just through letters or superficial forms, but longing for face-to-face and heart-to-heart communication, sharing the joy and testimony of our faith. May your grace always be with us, granting us peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Philippians 1:9-11**

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

**Read**

Which keywords or phrases in this passage caught your attention?

**Hear**

Read this passage repeatedly, listening to the content of the author's prayer. What is God saying to you?

**Meditate**

Ask yourself: Do I pray for others in this way? Can I pray like this for others? Can I pray like this for myself?

**Act**

Spend some quiet moments before God and replace "you" in the passage with "myself" and "names" (those you think of). Use this scripture as a model to pray for at least three people.

**Pray**

Dear Lord, we ask you to grant us love, filling our hearts with truth and wisdom so that we can discern right from wrong in a chaotic world and be pure and blameless. Lord, help us to bear the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ. May our lives be filled with your grace and love, and may all glory and praise be to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Holy Living through Hospitality

Day 36: 22 September, Sunday

### 3 John 1-15

1 The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.

7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. 10 So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

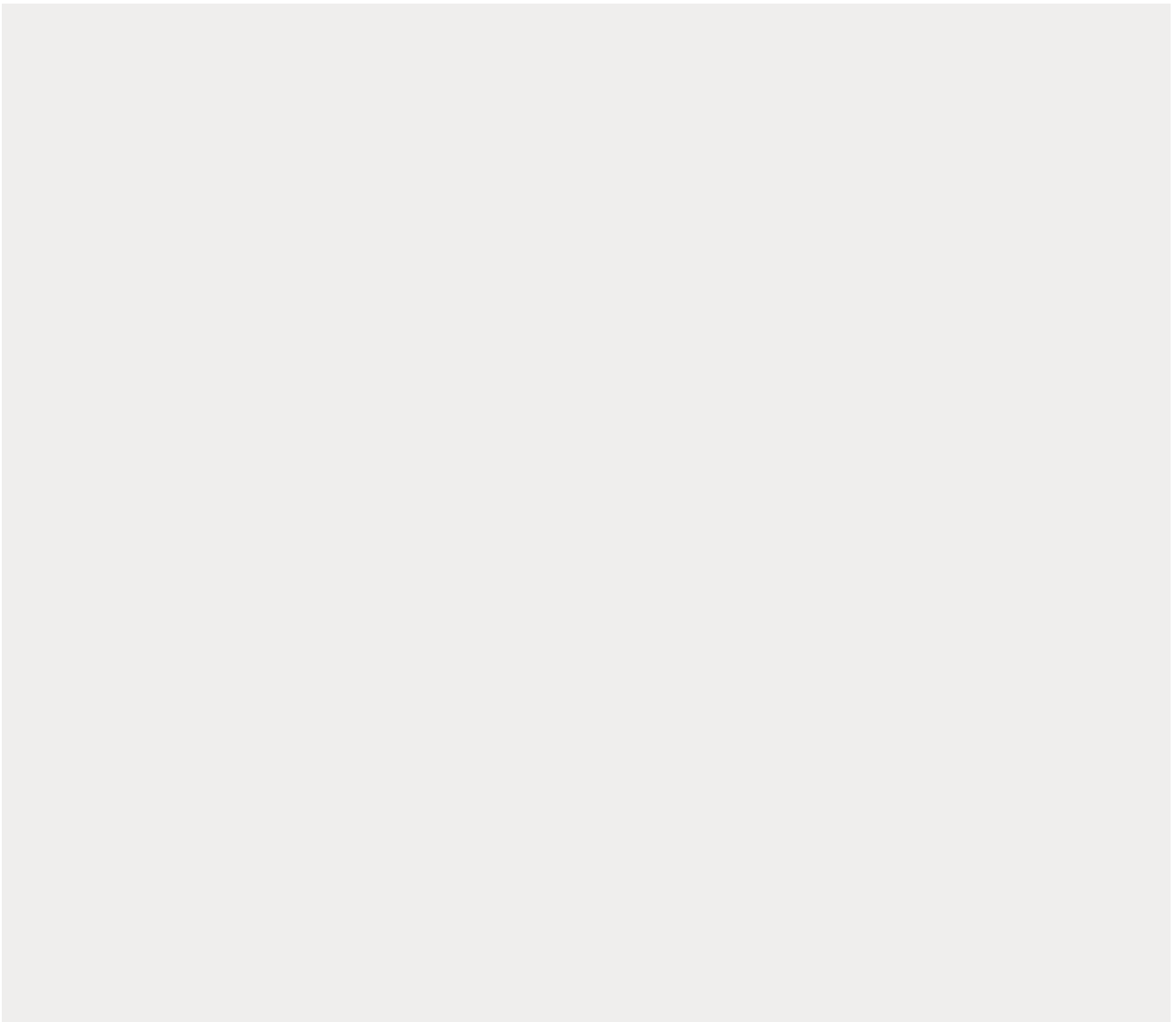
13 I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

15 Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

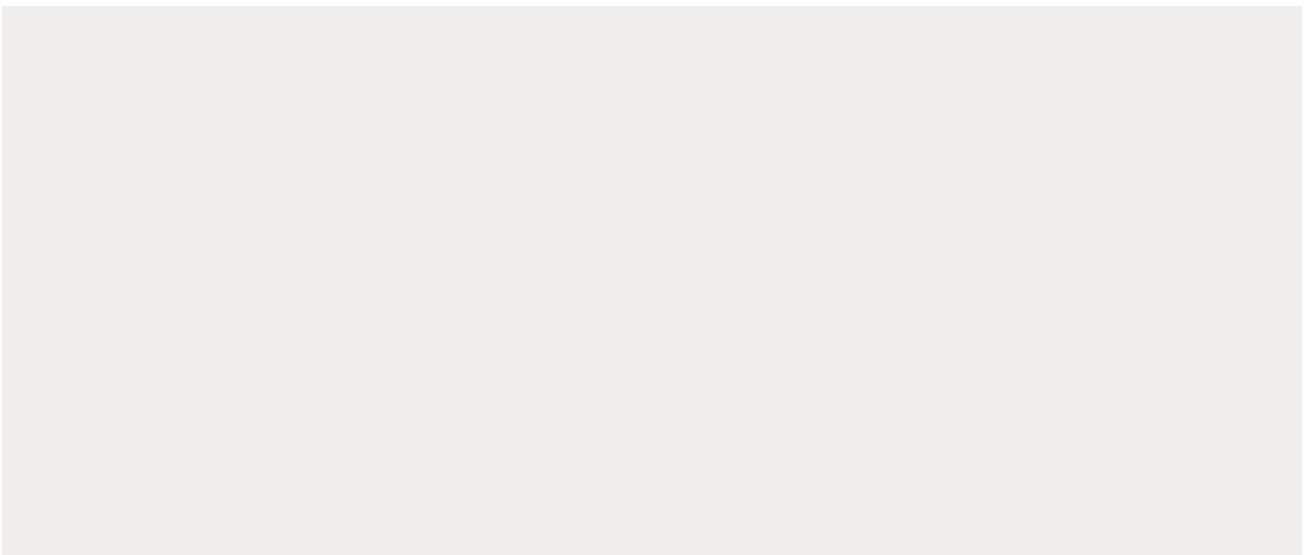
### Sermon Notes

## **Holy Living through Hospitality**

Day 36: 22 September, Sunday



### **My Prayer**



## Holy Living through Hospitality

Day 37: 23 September, Monday

### 3 John 1-4

1 The elder,

To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

#### Read

Slowly read the passage twice.

#### Hear

Read the passage aloud. Which words touched your heart?

#### Meditate

"Walking in the truth"—what does this passage say to you? Why is "walking in the truth" so important? Take a moment of silence, and under the illumination of the Holy Spirit, examine yourself in areas where you have not walked in the truth. What sins are you prone to commit?

#### Act

Confess daily your failure to walk in the truth and ask the Holy Spirit to help you stay true to the path, vigilantly avoiding the sins you are prone to commit.

### Pray

O God, show me your ways, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. In the name of Christ, I pray, Amen.



**3 John 5-6**

5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God.

**Read**

Slowly read the passage twice.

**Hear**

Read the passage aloud. Which words touched your heart?

**Meditate**

Who are the "strangers" or "sojourners" in your life? Take a moment of silence. Is there a person or group of people who come to mind, needing your hospitality? What must you do to "honor God" (to glorify God)?

**Act**

Act on what you have reflected upon.

**Pray**

Dear Heavenly Father, it is through Christ's redemption that we are reconciled to you and have a part in your holy and glorious kingdom. Help us, who have been saved by grace, to show more love and patience to others. Even to strangers, may we actively help and welcome them with love. If we have ever been indifferent to sojourners, forgive us our trespasses, for we have not shared your love nor glorified your name. Lord, have mercy. In Christ's holy name, Amen

## Holy Living through Hospitality

Day 39: 25 September, Wednesday

### 3 John 7-10

7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrefes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. 10 So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

#### Read

Slowly read the passage twice.

#### Hear

Read the passage aloud, paying attention to repeated words or themes.

#### Meditate

Have you ever refused to welcome or help someone who came to you for assistance? Have you spoken words that harmed or hurt others?

#### Act

Look for someone who needs care and show hospitality in a practical way. Meet with someone to listen to their struggles, invite an outsider for a meal, or send an encouraging message to a believer who hasn't been to church for a while.

#### Pray

God of compassion and mercy, you are the source of love. Pour your love into our hearts, driving away selfishness and self-centeredness. Help us to always show mercy to others and be willing to take practical actions to help those in need. If we have spoken harmful words, hurting others, and offending You, please forgive us. Help us to control our tongues and speak words filled with love. In Christ's holy name, Amen.

**3 John 11-15**

11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.  
12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.  
13 I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.  
15 Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

**Read**

Read it slowly and silently twice.

**Hear**

Read the scriptures aloud. What do you hear the Holy Spirit say?

**Meditate**

“Whoever does good belongs to God, but whoever does evil has not seen God.”  
What reminder does this sentence bring to you?

**Act**

Daily self-examination: Are you caring for and helping those in material or spiritual need according to the power given by God?

**Pray**

Merciful God, you have repeatedly reminded us that doing good and loving others is the life that the people of the Kingdom of Heaven should live. When our hearts only focus on ourselves and are unwilling to go the extra mile for others, forgive our selfishness. May your Spirit remind us and inspire us. For your sake, help us to go all out to do good deeds, no matter how big or small. Help us to be benevolent, righteous, and seize the opportunity to do more good deeds for others. In the name of the Lord, Amen.

## Holy Living through Hospitality

Day 41: 27 September, Friday

### Hebrews 13:1-2

1 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

#### Read

Read slowly and silently 2 times.

#### Hear

Read the scriptures aloud. What do you hear the Holy Spirit say?

#### Meditate

Have you ever had the experience described in the scriptures, where you were blessed because you welcomed or helped others? Who is your guest now?

#### Act

Pay attention to the people around you who need your care and take practical actions, such as handing a glass of cold water to the cleaner, saying hello to people you meet in the elevator, giving a sincere smile, etc.

### Pray

Heavenly Father, you command us to welcome and treat strangers kindly in order to exercise our spiritual life. Help us to willingly follow your will, and with every effort we give, we will realize more and more that giving is indeed more blessed than receiving. In the name of the Lord, Amen.

**Hebrews 13:3**

3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

**Read**

Read slowly and silently 2 times.

**Hear**

Read the scripture aloud, paying attention to repeated words or ideas.

**Meditate**

Who is facing grief and pain? How can you grieve with him/her and convey your love to the person who is grieving?

**Act**

Look for opportunities to visit those who are suffering spiritually or physically and try to attend funeral services to comfort the family.

**Pray**

Our Heavenly Father, in your infinite mercy and everlasting love, you come to show mercy to those who fear you. Teach us not to have a pious appearance but help us to truly love God, loving our church brothers and sisters, and our neighbors. Mold our hearts to be more like the heart of Christ, not only caring about our own affairs, but also caring about the affairs of others. In the name of the Lord, Amen.

## Holy Living through Fellowship

Day 43: 29 September, Sunday

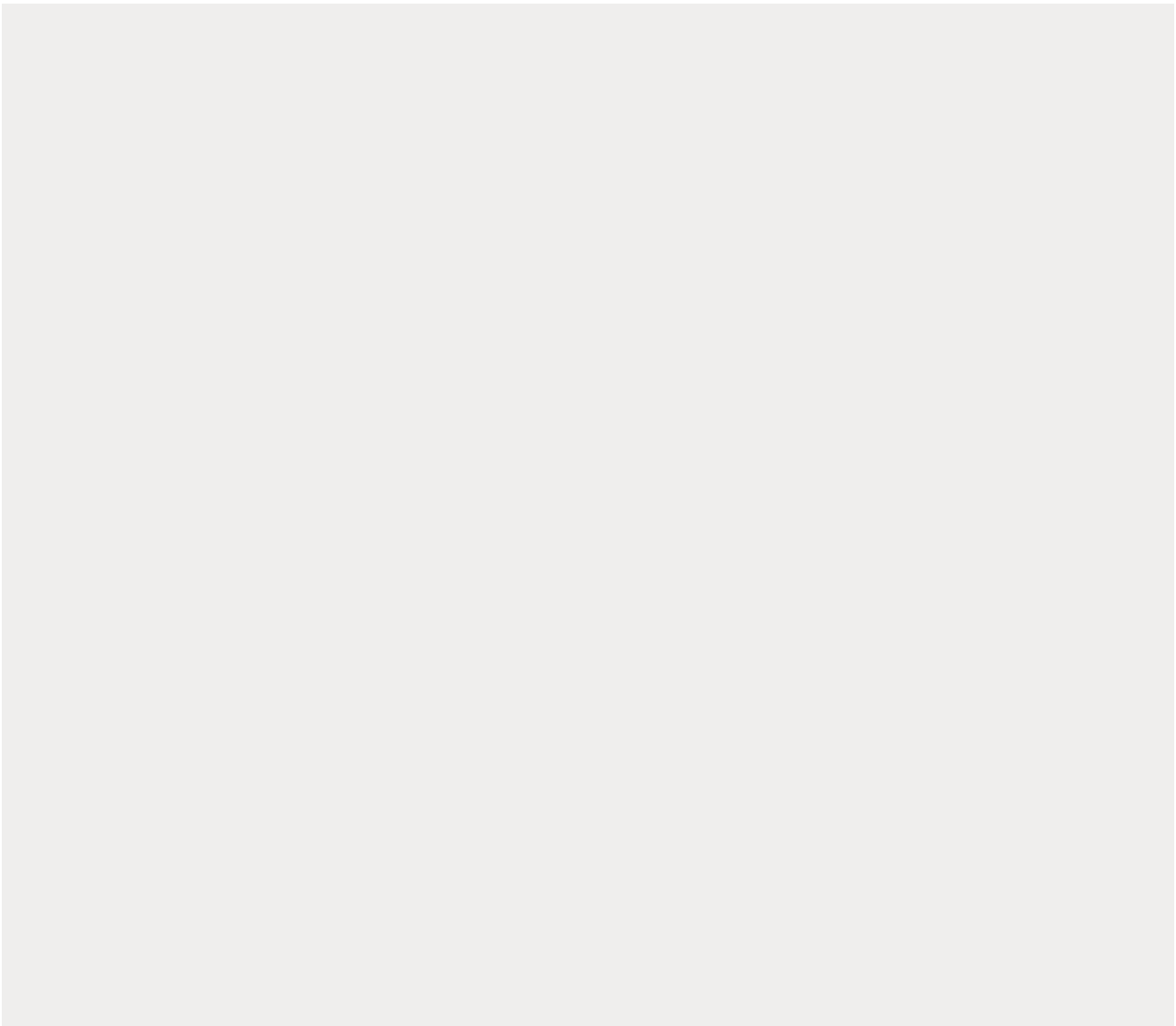
### Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### Sermon Notes

**Holy Living through Fellowship**

Day 43: 29 September, Sunday



**My Prayer**

